



NO. 382
DEC.

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

Detective  Comics presents

BATMAN and ROBIN



12c



HA!
THE **LAST** PERSON
WHO WOULD
SUSPECT OF
CRACKING A SAFE
IS... **ME!!**



NOW THE NEW BRAND OF HUMOR

HOW COME SHE'S READING
SCOOTER
WHEN SHE'S DATING ME!



Swing with

Scooter

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
JAN
NO. 16

12c

YOU'RE THE ONES
ALWAYS TELLING
ABOUT...**EQUAL
RIGHTS FOR
WOMEN!**



HENRY SCARFELLI



Leave it to

12c

Binky

JAN NO. 64



HOW COME HE'S READING
Binky
WHEN HE'S DATING ME!



FROM THE BEST BRAND OF THEM ALL



BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER

"RIDDLE OF THE ROBBIN' ROBIN!"

STORY BY:
FRANK ROBBINS

ART BY:
BOB BROWN & JOE GIELLA

ANOTHER VERY UN-TYPICAL
NIGHT FALLS ON GOTHAM
CITY...

MY PURSE...!
HELP!

NO JOB'S TOO SMALL
FOR ROBIN TO TACKLE!

HOLD
THAT
SHOP-
LIFTER!

OH-H...NO!
HOW LOW CAN
I STOOP?

BATMAN NEVER
LOST A "DESPERATE"
CRIMINAL LIKE *THIS*
BEFORE, SIR...SO
RELAX!

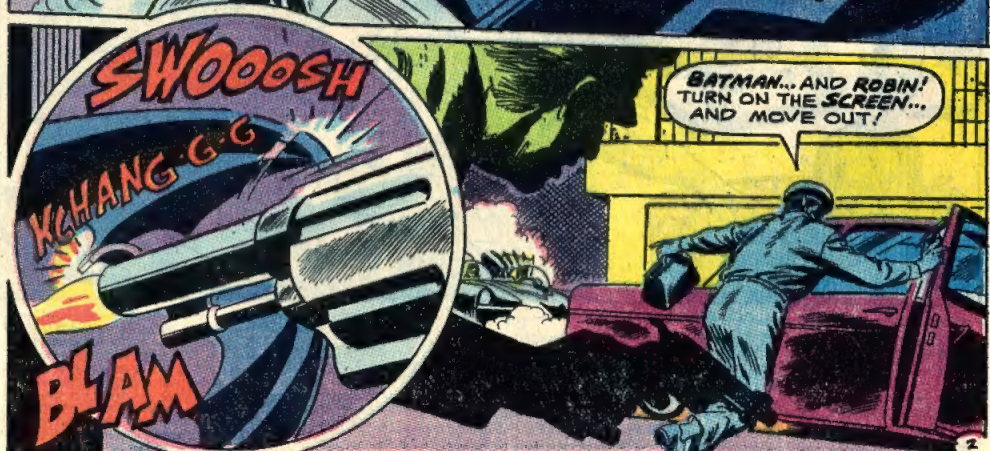
A REAL LOST WEEK,
ROBIN! HAS GRAND-
LARCENY TAKEN A...
HOLIDAY?

SOME BIG-DEAL
CRIME-FIGHTERS
WE ARE, BATMAN!
ALL WEEK LONG,
NOTHING BUT
PETTY-PETTY
LARCENY!

DON'T BE A
LITTERBUG
GCDS

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THE **SMOKESCREEN MOB!**
THAT'S THEIR TRADEMARK!
NO CHANCE OF FOLLOWING
THEM NOW!

BESIDES, WE KNOW
WHERE TO FIND THEM--
AND CATCH THEM
RED-HANDED--

--AFTER WE'VE TAKEN
THIS GUARD TO THE
NEAREST HOSPITAL!

WHILE IN THE
'SCREEN CAR...

BLASTED BRAT...
BENT UP THE FRONT
SIGHT ON MY PET
ROD!

WHEELS! STOP
OFF AT THE
ARMORER ON
OUR WAY HOME!

ONE NICE THING 'BOUT
THE **ARMORER...**
WITH HIS "FRONT"
HE'S ON TAP DAY
OR NIGHT!

J. ARMORY
FUNERAL
PARLOR

AHH... MY PRIZE PATRON,
FINGERS! AND WHAT
"STIFF" DO YOU BRING
ME TONIGHT, PRAY TELL?

ONE THAT'S
BREATHIN',
ARMORER...
BUT GOT A
BENT
NOSE!
NEEDS A
FACE-LIFT...

AS THEY ENTER
THE SECRET
"EMBALMING"
ROOM...

AH, YES... NASTY
CASE OF
"SCHNOZZ-
DEFLECTION"!!

TAKE THIS
SUBSTITUTE,
FINGERS, TILL I
COMPLETE
REPAIR AND
ADJUSTMENT!

AFTER THE
SMOKESCREEN
GANG LEAVES...

YEP! SURE NEEDS A
NEW SIGHT...AND...
HEH! HEH!...SOUND!

BEAUTIFUL JOB OF
MINIATURIZATION...
WHO WOULD SUSPECT?
BUT... BEFORE I
INSTALL ...

TESTING...
ONE...TWO...
THREE...
TESTING!

...TWO... THREE...
TESTING!

PERFECT! MY
MINI-SIGHT
BUG WILL KEEP
THEM ALL
GUESSING!

BUT...HEH...
THEY'LL NEVER
FIND OUT!

LATER...AT
THE MOB HQ...

STASH THE SPARKLERS
HERE TILL TOMORROW...
THEN WE'LL FENCE 'EM!

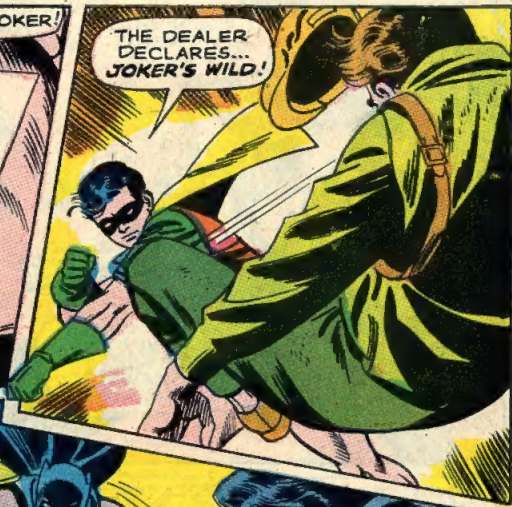
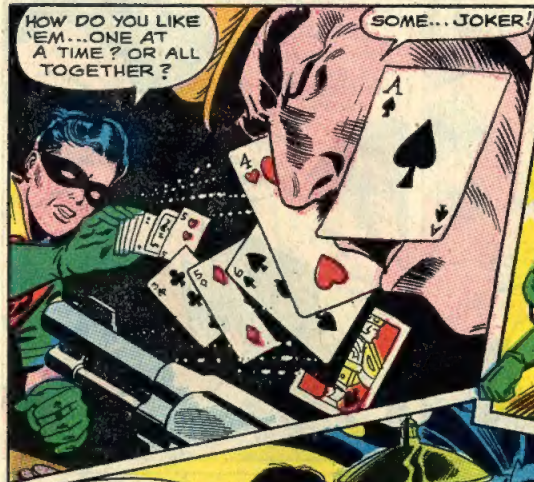
LET'S ADJOIN TO THE
GAME ROOM, FINGERS!
NEED SOME FIVE-
CARD RELAXATION
AFTER A HARD
NIGHT'S WORK!

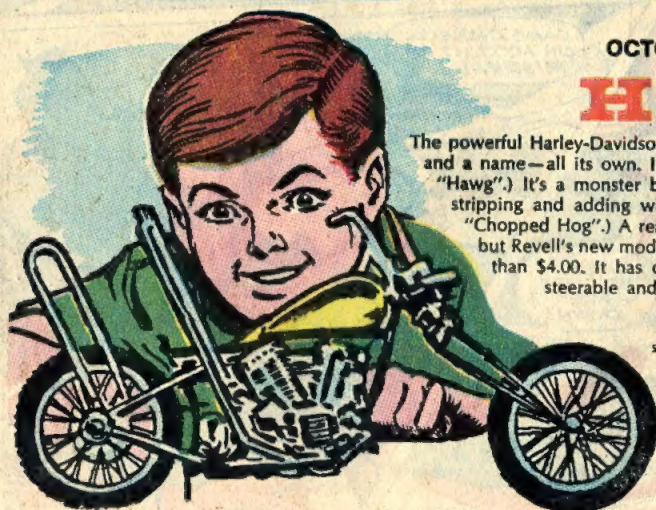
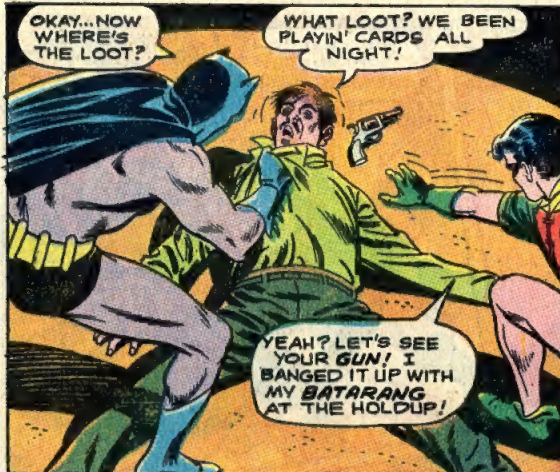
AN HOUR LATER--
THE DYNAMIC
DUO CRASHES THE
SMOKESCREENERS'
PARTY...

COOL IT, BOYS!
WHERE ARE THE
JEWELS...?

J-JOOLS?
W-WHAT
JOOLS...?

HIT 'EM,
FELLAS!
HIGH...
LOW...AND
TOP-CARD
DOWN!





OCTOBER, 1968

HOG

The powerful Harley-Davidson is a motorcycle with a personality—and a name—all its own. It's known as the "Hog". (Pronounced "Hawg".) It's a monster bike... even when it's customized by stripping and adding wild new parts. (Then it's known as a "Chopped Hog".) A real Chopped Hog can cost over \$2,000, but Revell's new model of this colorful motorcycle costs less than \$4.00. It has colored, clear and chrome parts, plus steerable and moveable wheels. And building one can be a moving experience.

For a catalog of 250 Revell models, send 25¢ to: Revell, Inc., 4316 Glencoe Avenue, Venice, California 90291.

Model
of the
Month
Harley-Davidson
"Chopped Hog"



Captain Action®
and **Action Boy™**
meet
DR. EVIL™

I... I CAN'T MOVE! WHO ARE YOU?

I AM **DR. EVIL!** AT LAST... YOU'RE IN MY GRASP... HEH... HEH!

HA! I HAVE IONIZED YOU... NOW MY THOUGHT-SENSOR WILL CONTROL YOUR MIND!

WHO WILL SAVE Captain Action NOW...!!?

ACTION BOY!

MY REDUCER WILL FREEZE YOU, ACTION BOY!

MY RAY-GUN IS STRONGER!

THANKS, ACTION BOY!

I'M GLAD I WAS IN TIME TO FOIL DR. EVIL!

THERE'S MORE ACTION AHEAD WHEN YOU ACT OUT YOUR OWN CAPTAIN ACTION ADVENTURES!

GET DR. EVIL... ALIEN FROM ALPHA CENTURA! HE COMES WITH DISGUISES TO HIDE HIS EVIL DEEDS... HE COMES WITH EVIL OUTFIT AND EVIL, EVIL THINGS!



GET CAPTAIN ACTION... GET HIS CRIME-FIGHTING ACCESSORIES.



ACTION BOY COMES WITH HELMET, KNIFE, RAY GUN AND PANTHER.



GET ALL THE ACTION WITH CAPTAIN ACTION, ACTION BOY, AND DR. EVIL! THEY'RE

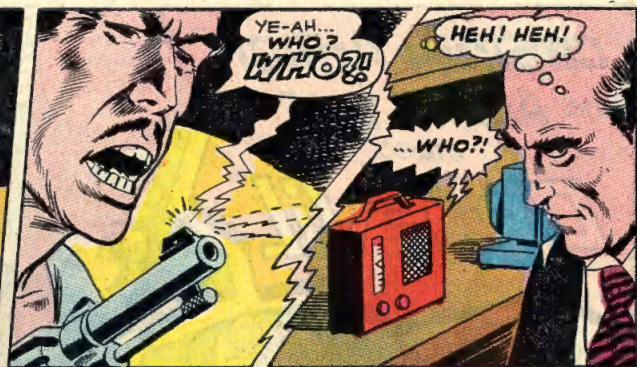
IDEAL



THWARTED, THE **DYNAMIC DUO** DEPARTS, AND...

WE'VE BEEN **TAKEN-- AGAIN!** FIVE JOBS IN A ROW...AND EACH TIME--WE'RE **CLEANED OUT!**

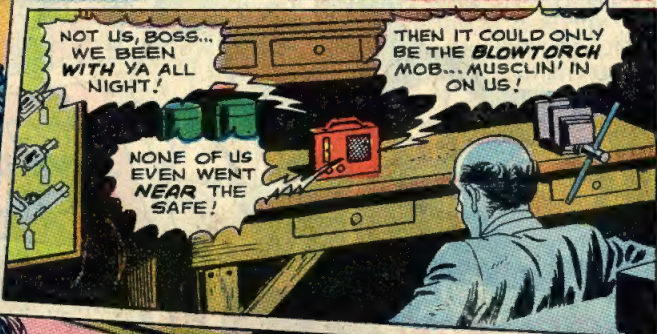
BUT, BOSS... **WHO** COULDA KNOWN OUR HEIST-PLANS IN ADVANCE?



YE-AH... **WHO?**

HEH! HEH!

...WHO?!



NOT US, BOSS... WE BEEN WITH YA ALL NIGHT!

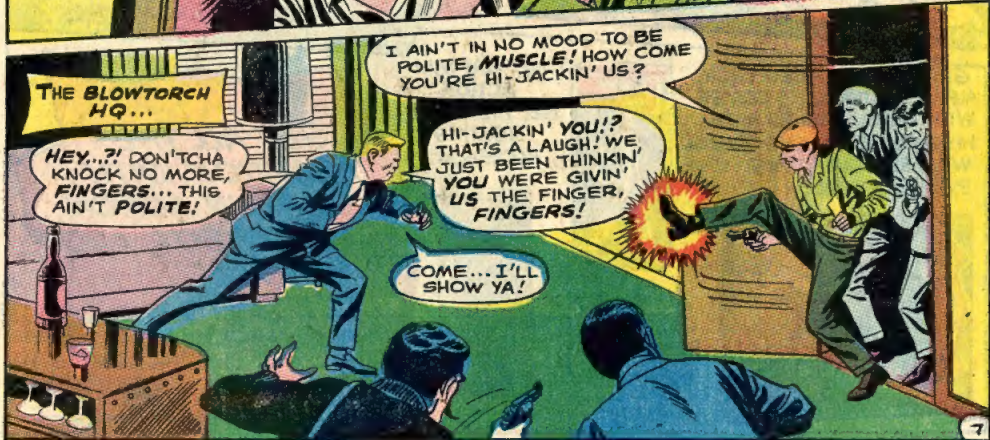
THEN IT COULD ONLY BE THE **BLOWTORCH MOB... MUSCLIN' IN ON US!**

NONE OF US EVEN WENT NEAR THE **SAFE!**



BUT WE HAD A **PACT...** THEY STICK TO THEIR **TERRITORY-- WE TO OURS!**

SO... WE'RE **PAYIN' THEM A VIST!**



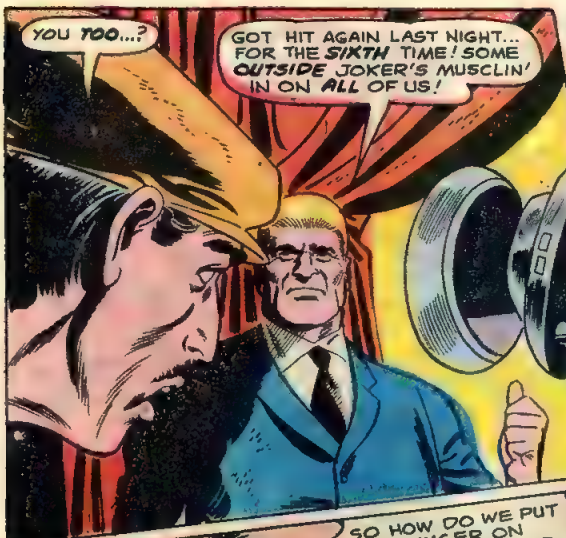
THE **BLOWTORCH HQ...**

HEY...?! DON'TCHA **KNOCK NO MORE, FINGERS...** THIS AIN'T **POLITE!**

I AIN'T IN NO MOOD TO BE **POLITE, MUSCLE!** HOW COME YOU'RE **HI-JACKIN' US?**

HI-JACKIN' YOU!? THAT'S A **LAUGH!** WE JUST BEEN THINKIN' YOU WERE GIVIN' US THE **FINGER, FINGERS!**

COME... I'LL **SHOW YA!**



YOU TOO...?

GOT HIT AGAIN LAST NIGHT...
FOR THE **SIXTH** TIME! SOME
OUTSIDE JOKER'S MUSCLIN!
IN ON **ALL** OF US!

UNLESS WE JOIN
FORCES AND
**STOP HIM...WE'RE
OUTA BUSINESS!**

OKAY... A TRUCE!
PUT YOUR GUNS
ON THE TABLE...
AND WE TALK!
PRIVATE-LIKE...



AND, LISTENING
IN TO THE "BUGGED"
GUNS...

SO HOW DO WE PUT
THE FINGER ON
THIS CAT-BURGLAR,
MUSCLE?

WE COULD
STARVE HIM
OUT... BY
NOT
WORKING!

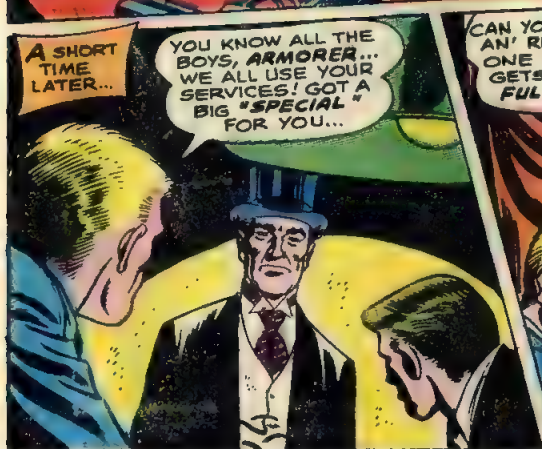
AND HOW DO
WE EAT... WHILE
WE STARVE
HIM?

YE-AH... THAT
WOON'T WORK!



HOW 'BOUT THIS... WE
DECLARE A **HOLIDAY!**
GET HIM **HUNGRY...**
THEN WE PULL A **BIG**
ONE, TOGETHER!
PLANT THE LOOT
IN YOUR SAFE...
AS **BAIT!**

YE-AH... WE GLUCKER
THE SUCKER TO
CRACK THE **SAFE...**
THEN--**BLAM!**--
HE GETS IT! AN'
I KNOW JUST
THE **BABY TO RIG**
THE **BOOBY-
TRAP!**



A SHORT
TIME
LATER...

YOU KNOW ALL THE
BOYS, **ARMORER...**
WE ALL USE YOUR
SERVICES! GOT A
BIG "**SPECIAL**"
FOR YOU...



CAN YOU REPAIR THIS...
AN' RIG IT SO ANY
ONE OPENIN' IT
GETS A FACE
FULL O' **LEAD?**

A LEAD... **HAW...**
PIPE CINCIN'! BUT
WHO'S THE
EMBALMING
PROSPECT?

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

WE WANT YOU TO
BABY-SIT...
WITH THE
WORLD'S
MIGHTIEST
TOT.

SUPER BABY!



JUST
SIT
DOWN...
AND
READ
THIS
LATEST
GIANT.

EXTRA

THE GIRL SUPERBABY
STARRING SUPERGIRL!

ON
SALE
OCT. 15

WE DON'T KNOW...YET!
BUT A WEEK FROM
TONIGHT THE **KIMBERLY
STAR** COMES INTO
GOTHAM AIRPORT... TO
BE DELIVERED TO
**CRANSTON'S JEWELRY
SHOP.** THE STONE'S
PRICELESS...

WE SNATCH IT...
AND PLANT IT IN
HERE! **BEHIND
THE SPRAY-GAT**
YOU RIG UP,
ARMORER!
LEAK OUT THE
INFO WE HAVE
IT...AND THEN
HE BITES!

I'VE GOT ENOUGH LOOT STASHED
AWAY NOW...DON'T NEED THAT
DIAMOND! BUT UNLESS I FIND
A "PATSY" TO BE THEIR FALL
GUY...I CAN'T LEAVE TOWN!

IF I DID...
THEY'D
SUSPECT
ME RIGHT
OFF THE
BAT! BAT?...
HMM, LIKE
WHAT BETTER
PATSY THAN--
BATMAN!

GOOD POINT,
ARMORER!

A GOOD PLAN,
FELLOW MOURNERS!
BUT SUPPOSE
BATMAN AND ROBIN
SCREW UP THE
OPERATION?

SO...WE
DREAM UP A
DIVERSION!

ALLOW ME THE
PRIVILEGE OF...
DIVERTING THEM!

ONE
WEEK
LATER...

**Benny
Bowl**

THIS DEAD CALM IN BIG-TIME
CRIME HAS ME WORRIED, **ROBIN!**
BETTER CHECK AROUND...SEE
WHAT'S BREWING--

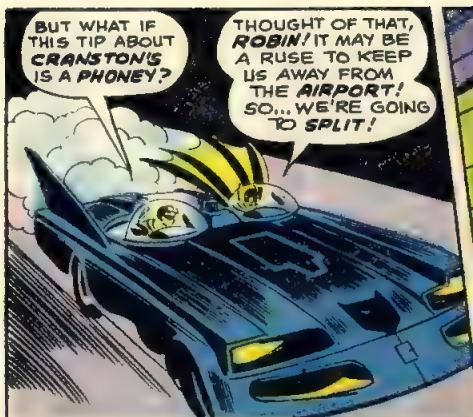
RIGHT, **BATMAN...**
WE'LL CHECK OUR USUAL
TIPSTER HANGOUTS! LIKE
BENNY'S BOWLING--
WATCH IT!

LET ME HELP
YOU, SIR...

LISTEN REAL CLOSE,
ROBIN! IN TEN
MINUTES THE
KIMBERLY STAR
IS GOING TO BE
STOLEN...

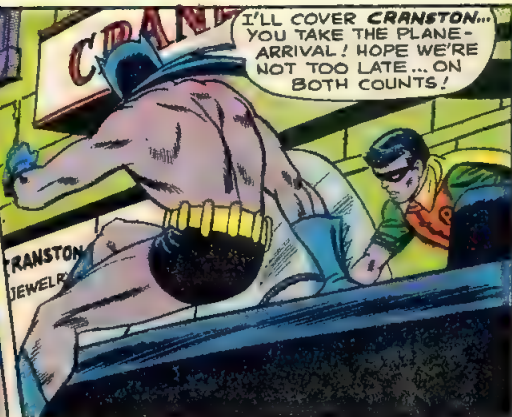
...WHEN IT'S DELIVERED TO
CRANSTON JEWELS, LTD.!
A "TIP" TO THE WISE...

THAT'S WHAT
THEY'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR,
**ROBIN--THE
BIG HIT!**
LET'S GO!



BUT WHAT IF
THIS TIP ABOUT
CRANSTON'S
IS A PHONEY?

THOUGHT OF THAT,
ROBIN! IT MAY BE
A RUSE TO KEEP
US AWAY FROM
THE **AIRPORT!**
SO... WE'RE GOING
TO **SPLIT!**



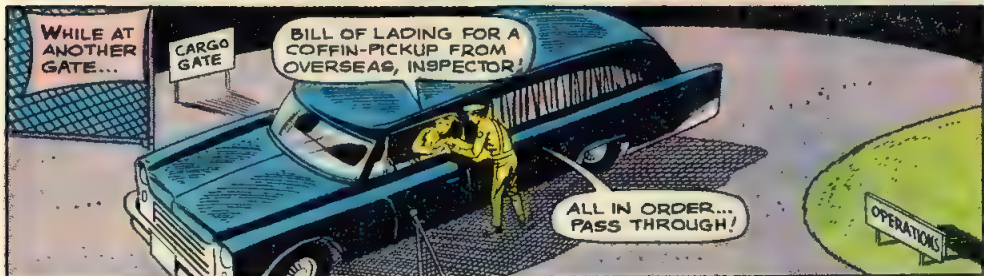
I'LL COVER **CRANSTON...**
YOU TAKE THE PLANE-
ARRIVAL! HOPE WE'RE
NOT TOO LATE... ON
BOTH COUNTS!



JUST THEN,
AT **GOTHAM**
AIRPORT...

HERE IT COMES! WE
CAN'T GO OUT ON THE
FIELD TO MEET THE
DIAMOND-COURIER
FROM **CAPE TOWN...**
TILL HE CLEARS
CUSTOMS!

HOPE IT ISN'T THE
USUAL RED-TAPE!
I'M GETTING
EDGY!



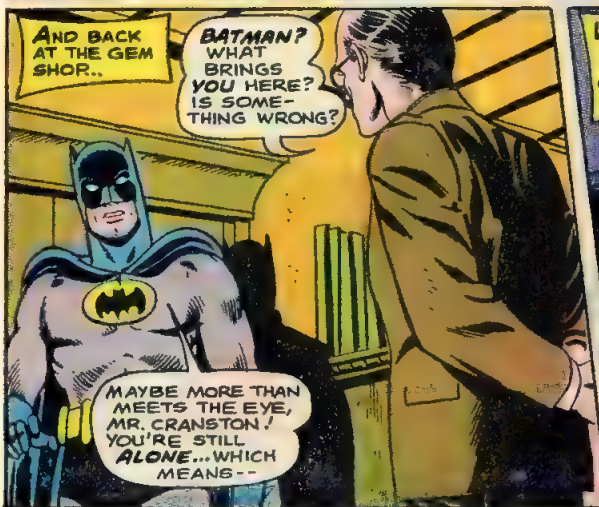
WHILE AT
ANOTHER
GATE....

CARGO
GATE

BILL OF LADING FOR A
COFFIN-PICKUP FROM
OVERSEAS, INSPECTOR!

ALL IN ORDER...
PASS THROUGH!

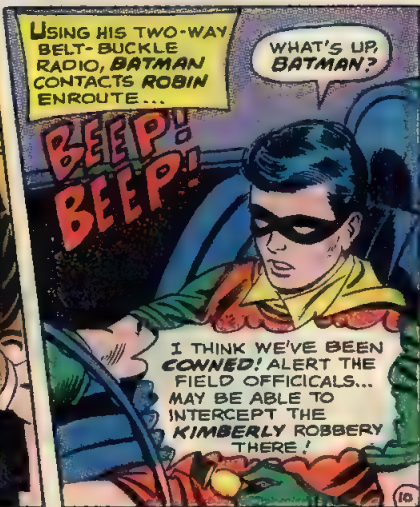
OPERATIONS



AND BACK
AT THE GEM
SHOP...

BATMAN?
WHAT
BRINGS
YOU HERE?
IS SOME-
THING WRONG?

MAYBE MORE THAN
MEETS THE EYE,
MR. **CRANSTON!**
YOU'RE STILL
ALONE... WHICH
MEANS--



USING HIS TWO-WAY
BELT-BUCKLE
RADIO, **BATMAN**
CONTACTS **ROBIN**
ENROUTE...

WHAT'S UP,
BATMAN?

**BEEP!
BEEP!**

I THINK WE'VE BEEN
CONNED! ALERT THE
FIELD OFFICIALS...
MAY BE ABLE TO
INTERCEPT THE
KIMBERLY ROBBERY
THERE!

AS ROBIN DESPERATELY TRIES TO
RAISE THE FIELD ON HIS BATMOBILE
RADIO...

THERE'S THE
GEM-COURIER!
CUT HIM OFF...

GOTHAM AIR

SCREEEEEE

GRAB HIM...FAST!
PULL HIM INSIDE!

WHA--?

POLICE - CENTRAL RELAYING
RADIO-ALERT FROM ROBIN!
BE ON ALERT FOR--

TOO
LATE!

WAIROOM!

AND MOMENTS
LATER...

CALLING ALL
POLICE! KIMBERLY
STAR AND COURIER
SNATCHED AT
AIRPORT! BE ON
LOOKOUT FOR
BLACK HEARSE...

THEY'VE GOTTEN
AWAY WITH IT!

GOTHAM
AIRPORT
2 MILES

THAT MUST BE
THE ONE!
GOTTA CUT
THEM OFF...

THE BATMOBILE?!
THOUGHT THEY
WERE AT...

SO THEY AIN'T!
PLOUGH THROUGH...

THEY AREN'T
SWERVING...
GOING TO
CHICKEN
ME OUT!

BREAKING OFF COLLISION-COURSE CONTACT, ROBIN VEERS OFF, AND...

LOST CONTROL....!

...HITTING THE DITCH, ONLY HIS SEAT-BELT SAVES HIM...

OWTCH! THAT BUCKLE'S HARD... HOPE IT WASN'T DAMAGED!

GROGGY, ROBIN TRIES TO CONTACT BATMAN ON HIS TWO-WAY BELT-BUCKLE RADIO...

CAUGHT FLEETING GLIMPSE OF HEARSE TRADE-NAME... J. ARMORY, FUNERAL PARLOR! GOT TO INFORM...

CALLING BATMAN-- COME IN, PLEASE!

AND WAITING IMPATIENTLY...

ROBIN'S IN TROUBLE... CAN TELL BY HIS VOICE!

...COME IN... BATMAN...

BATMAN...HERE... WHERE ARE YOU...?

NO ANSWER...SOME-THING WRONG WITH TWO-WAY... CAN'T RAISE HIM! BATMAN... BATMAN... COME IN!

I CAN HEAR HIM... BUT HE CAN'T HEAR ME! BELT-RADIO MUST BE JAMMED IN "SEND" MODE ONLY!

GOT TO SIT PAT TILL I CAN GET A "FIX" ON HIM! MAYBE SOMETHING I HEAR WILL...

MAY BE JUST AS WELL THAT I CAN'T CONTACT BATMAN! I SURE GOOFED THIS ASSIGNMENT! GOT TO MAKE IT UP ON MY OWN!

FIRST PLACE TO HEAD... ARMORY'S FUNERAL PARLOR!

IF THAT HEARSE WAS STOLEN...MIGHT PICK UP A LEAD!

SHORTLY, INSIDE THE FUNERAL PARLOR...

JUST AS I'D HOPED! ONE OF THEM TRACKED THE HEARSE TO ME, AND... IT'S **ROBIN!** GUESS HE'LL DO JUST AS WELL AS **BATMAN** FOR MY PATSY!

NOW... TO GO INTO MY "ACT"!

R-ROBIN...? H-HOW DID YOU...? I-I CONFESS I HELPED THEM, B-BUT... THEY FORCED ME TO!

WHO ARE "THEY"...

AS **ROBIN'S** BELT-RADIO TRANSMITS THE DRAMATIC CONFRONTATION...

THAT OTHER VOICE... I-I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE!

THE **BLOWTORCH** AND THE **SMOKE-SCREEN GANGS!** THEY'VE COMBINED! ARE USING **BLOWTORCH HQ** TO HIDE THE **KIMBERLY STAR!**

HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT PUTTING ME ON, MR. ARMORY?

I'LL PROVE IT! I'LL LEAD YOU TO THE SAFE THEY'VE HIDDEN IT IN! YOU CAN OPEN IT YOURSELF!

NEVER HEARD THIS **ARMORY'S** VOICE... BUT WHY DOES IT SOUND SO FAMILIAR?

FAIR ENOUGH... LEAD ON!

SOUNDS LIKE **ROBIN'S** DOING OKAY ON HIS OWN! NO SENSE MY TAKING THE PLAY AWAY FROM HIM! LET HIM NAIL THAT MOB... **SOLO!**

BUT THAT MAN'S VOICE... STILL BUGS ME!

WHILE IN **BLOWTORCH HQ...**

THE TRAP'S SET, FINGERS... ALL IT NEEDS IS THE "RAT" TO NIBBLE ON THE "CHEESE"!

AND THEN WE EAT THE "CHEESE," MUSCLE... OVER HIS DEAD BODY! NOW LET'S DOUSE THE LIGHTS... HIDE IN THE NEXT ROOM... AND WAIT!

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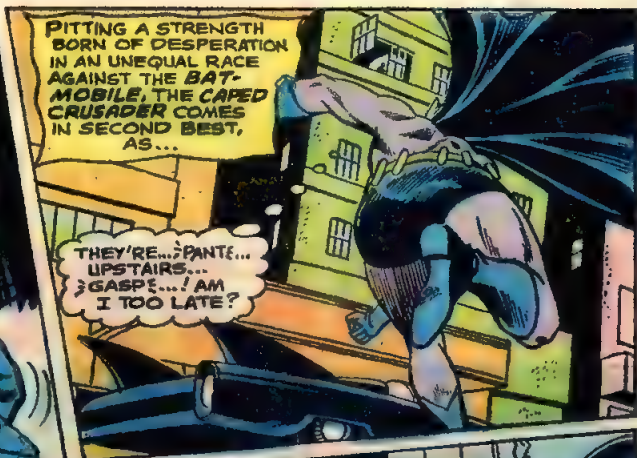
AND AT THAT MOMENT...

ARMORY'S VOICE... SAME AS THAT OLD MAN'S DISGUISED VOICE! THIS WHOLE THING... A SET-UP FOR A KILL! GOT TO MOVE... FAST!



PITTING A STRENGTH BORN OF DESPERATION IN AN UNEQUAL RACE AGAINST THE BAT-MOBILE, THE CAPED CRUSADER COMES IN SECOND BEST, AS...

THEY'RE... PANTS... UPSTAIRS... GASP!...! AM I TOO LATE?



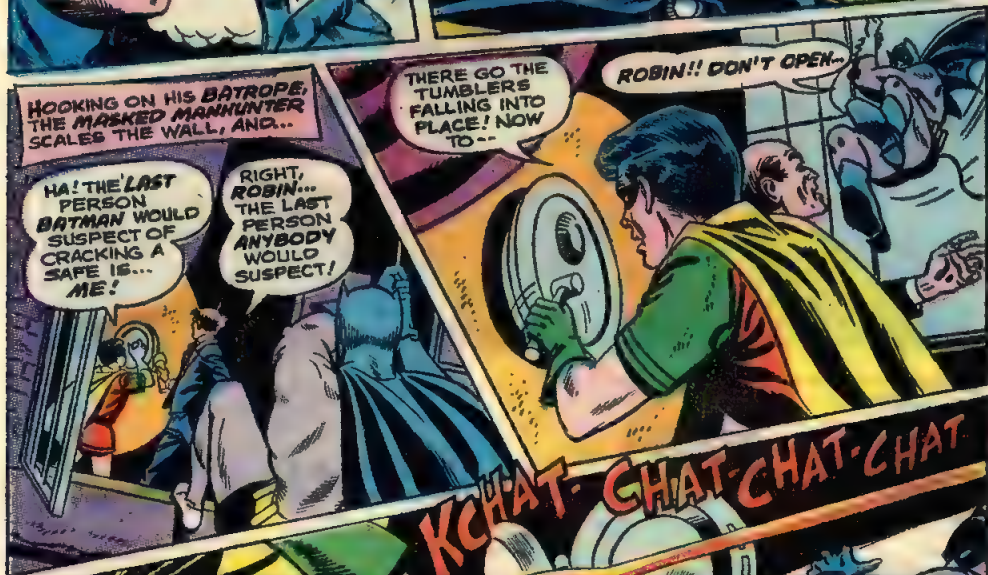
HOOKING ON HIS BATROPE, THE MASKED MANNHUNTER SCALES THE WALL, AND...

HA! THE LAST PERSON BATMAN WOULD SUSPECT OF CRACKING A SAFE IS... ME!

RIGHT, ROBIN... THE LAST PERSON ANYBODY WOULD SUSPECT!

THERE GO THE TUMBLERS FALLING INTO PLACE! NOW TO--

ROBIN!! DON'T OPEN--



KCHAT-CHAT-CHAT-CHAT



Phew!
See,
Batman...
was that
ever a close
one!

PROVES IN UNITY
THERE'S STRENGTH,
ROBIN! IF I HADN'T
SHOWN UP... YOU'D
HAVE LOOKED
LIKE THAT DOOR!

FINGERS...
AND...
MUSCLE...?
THEY
WERE...
HIDING...
WAITING...
FOR...

SUDDENLY... UNDER
A HIDDEN WEIGHT...
THE RIDDLED DOOR
SWINGS OPEN, AND...

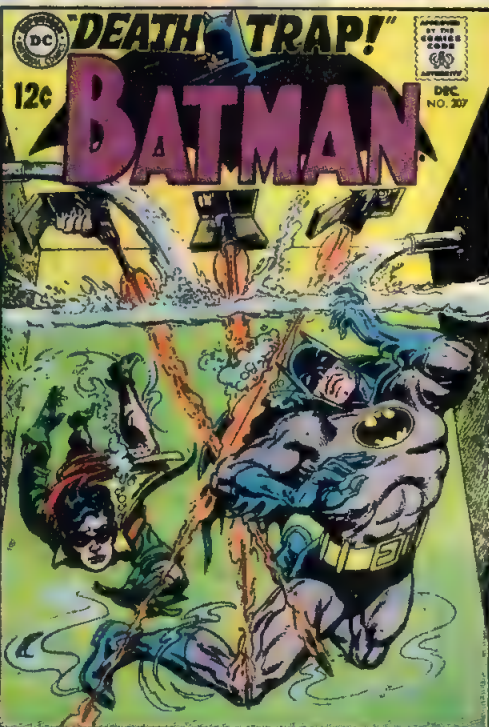
... A NEW CLIENT FOR
ARMORY'S FUNERAL
PARLOR! A TRAP HE
HELPED ARRANGE...
AND WILL PAY FOR...
THE REST OF HIS LIFE!

THE
END?

DOUBLE DEATH-TRAP FOR BATMAN and ROBIN!

THEY DROWN--OR THEY'RE
RIDDLED WITH BULLETS--!
THEY LOSE EITHER WAY!

BUT YOU CAN'T LOSE BY
PICKING UP BATMAN # 207!!
ON SALE AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND OCT 17th



STEEL YOURSELF FOR A



CLASSIC!

Story
by:
GARDNER
FOX

The ELONGATED Man

Art
by:
SID
GREENE

IN A HOME IN FAIRVIEW CITY, A BOY TOSSES A COIN INTO A WISHING WELL...

MAGIC COIN, MAKE MY WISH FOR A BRAND NEW BICYCLE COME TRUE!

AND THEN TO SLEEP, TO DREAM PERCHANCE OF SOMETHING EVERY YOUNGSTER HAS ALWAYS WANTED-- THE ABILITY TO MAKE WISHES COME TRUE...

A NIGHT-LONG DREAM THAT ENDS THE FOLLOWING MORNING WHEN....

BILLY-- WAKE UP!

THERE'S A BRAND NEW BICYCLE ON THE FRONT PORCH-- WITH A TAG THAT HAS YOUR NAME ON IT!

I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW--

IF ONLY I COULD TELL MOM HOW--

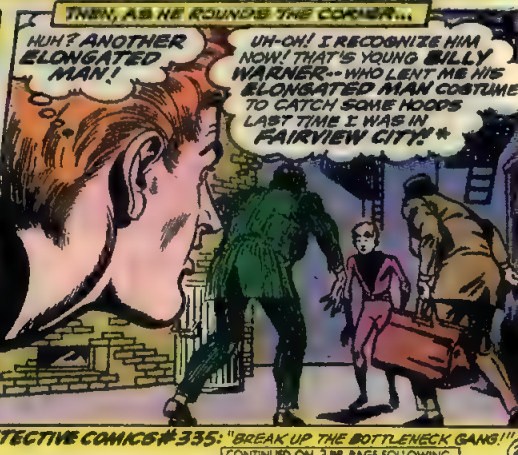
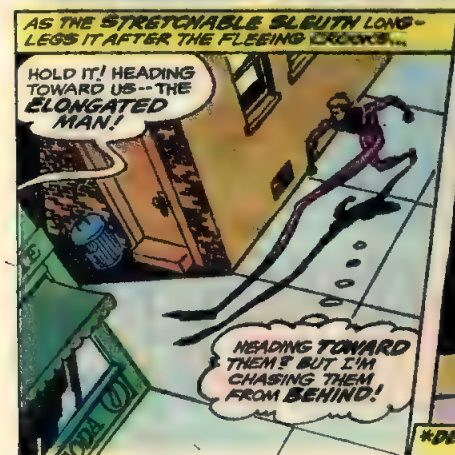
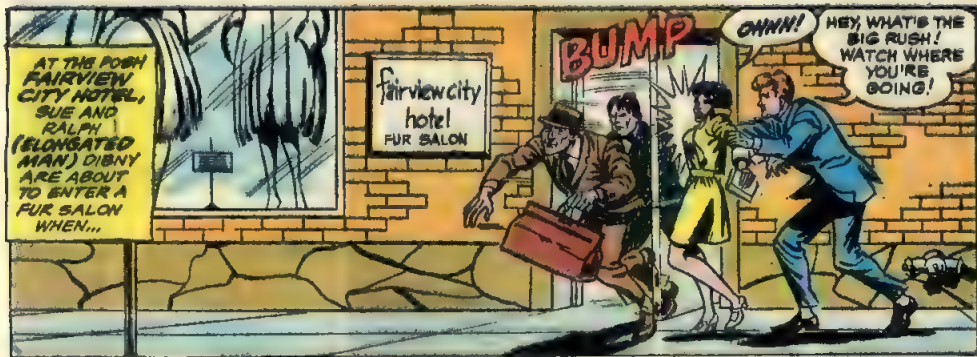
WOWW! IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN I EXPECTED!

BILLY WARNER! WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT'D RUIN EVERYTHING IF I TOLD MOM ABOUT MY WISHING WELL AND THE MAGIC COIN THE GREAT GURU GAVE ME!

I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM... FIND OUT HOW THAT WISHING TRICK WORKS!

The Wishing Well **WONDER!**



WEBSTER says:

A **DOLPHIN** is... "Any of various small-toothed cetaceans of the genus *Delphinus* and allied genera, having the snout produced into a more or less distinct beak; in a wider sense, any cetacean of the family *Delphinidae*..."

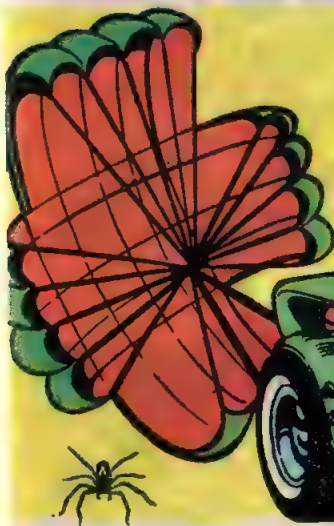
WE say:

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SOMETHING ELSE!"

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Dare
Miss

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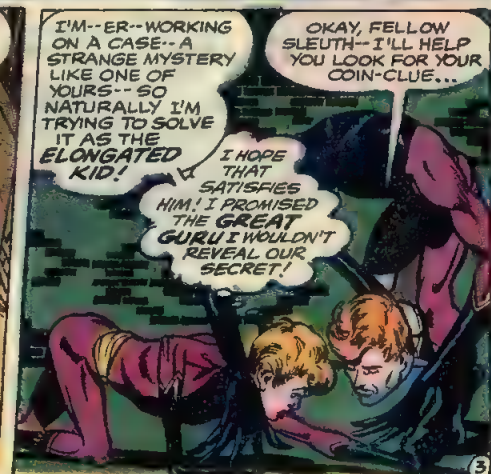
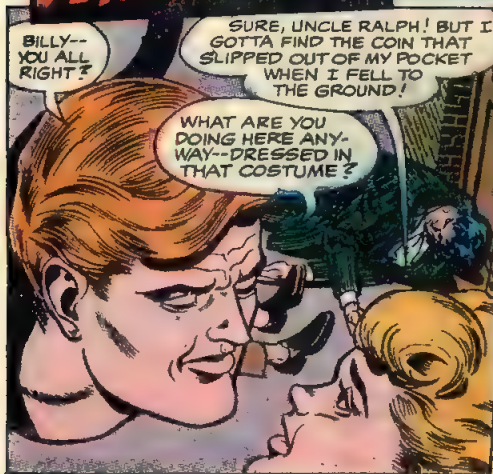
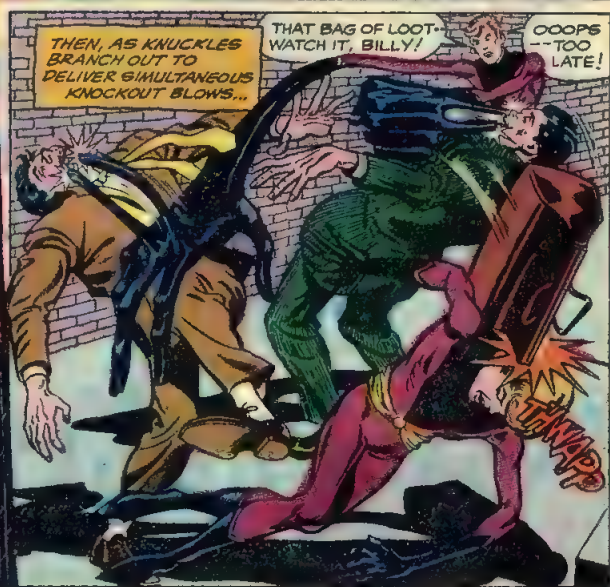
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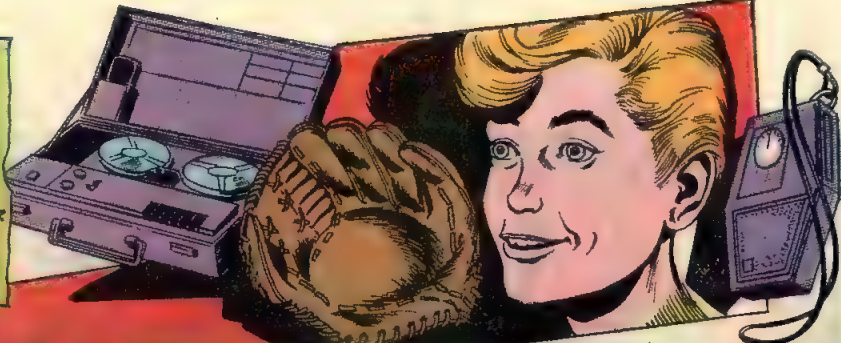
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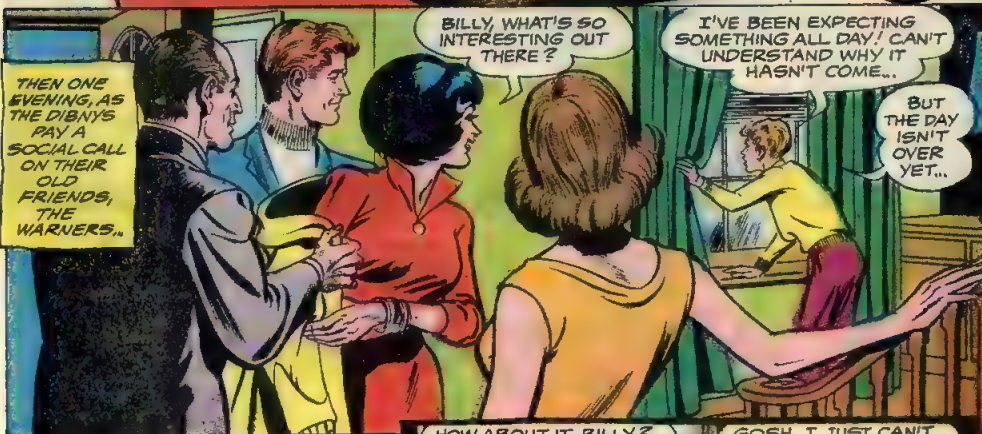
LIKE DIGITAL LIGHTNING BOLTS--THE
EXTENDED FINGERS OF THE DUCTILE
DETECTIVE FLASH OUT AND...



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, BILLY WARNER WISHES FOR-- AND IS THE RECIPIENT OF-- A PORTABLE TAPE-RECORDER-- A BASEBALL GLOVE-- A TRANSISTOR RADIO...



THEN ONE EVENING, AS THE DIBNY'S PAY A SOCIAL CALL ON THEIR OLD FRIENDS, THE WARNERS...



BILLY, WHAT'S SO INTERESTING OUT THERE?

I'VE BEEN EXPECTING SOMETHING ALL DAY! CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY IT HASN'T COME...

BUT THE DAY ISN'T OVER YET...

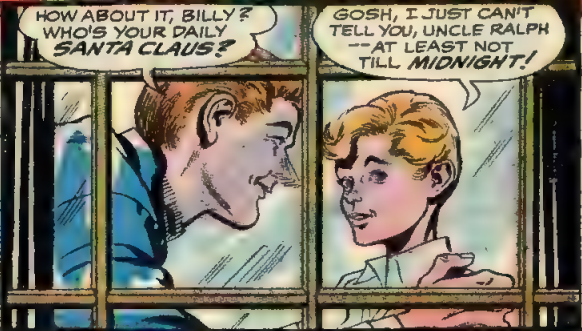
WHAT'S BILLY'S "GREAT EXPECTATION," HELEN?

MY GUESS IS THAT IT'S ANOTHER OF THOSE MYSTERY GIFTS HE'S BEEN RECEIVING EACH DAY-- THAT HE SOMEHOW KNOWS ABOUT IN ADVANCE!

NO NEED TO LOOK! AS USUAL, RALPH'S NOSE IS GOING TWITCHY-TWITCH OVER THE STRANGE MYSTERY!

HOW ABOUT IT, BILLY? WHO'S YOUR DAILY SANTA CLAUS?

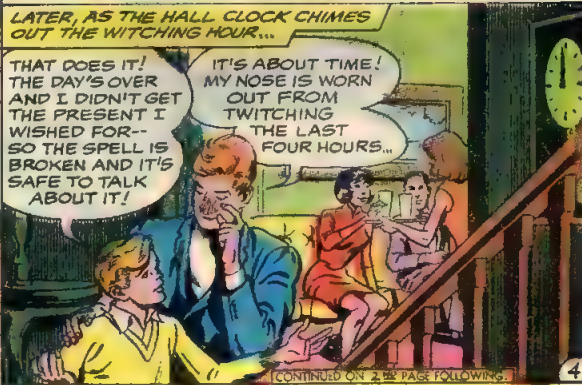
GOSH, I JUST CAN'T TELL YOU, UNCLE RALPH-- AT LEAST NOT TILL MIDNIGHT!



LATER, AS THE HALL CLOCK CHIMES OUT THE WITCHING HOUR...

THAT DOES IT! THE DAY'S OVER AND I DIDN'T GET THE PRESENT I WISHED FOR-- SO THE SPELL IS BROKEN AND IT'S SAFE TO TALK ABOUT IT!

IT'S ABOUT TIME! MY NOSE IS WORN OUT FROM TWITCHING THE LAST FOUR HOURS...



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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"A FEW DAYS AGO, I HELPED A GURU ACROSS A BUSY STREET! HE WAS SO GRATEFUL HE GAVE ME A MAGIC COIN..."

DROP THIS COIN INTO A WISHING WELL AND MAKE A SIMPLE WISH--

AND IT WILL COME TRUE THE FOLLOWING DAY!

CARMINE'S
FROZEN PIZZA

BUS STOP

YOU MAY MAKE ONLY ONE WISH A DAY-- NOTHING OUTLANDISH-- AND THE PERI-SPIRITUAL FORCES IN NATURE WILL MATERIALIZE IT ON THE MORROW!

FURTHERMORE, YOU MUST KEEP THE COIN ALWAYS ON YOUR PERSON--AND NOT TELL ANYONE HOW YOUR WISHES ARE GRANTED...

AS BILLY TELLS HIS STORY HE LEADS RALPH INTO HIS BED-ROOM WHERE...

I BOUGHT THIS WISHING WELL IN A SOUVENIR SHOP-- AND ALL MY WISHES CAME TRUE-- UNTIL TODAY!

LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY TOY WELL--NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT IT!

NOW LET ME SEE THAT SO-CALLED MAGIC COIN...

MADE IN JAPAN

HMMM! COMES FROM INDIA, ALL RIGHT--JUST A COMMON RUPEE...

MAYBE YOU CAN'T FIND ANYTHING UNCOMMON ABOUT IT, UNCLE RALPH, BECAUSE YOU AREN'T WEARING YOUR **ELONGATED MAN** COSTUME! THAT'S HOW YOU SOLVE ALL YOUR STRANGE MYSTERIES!

I DOUBT IF THAT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT, BILLY-- BUT SINCE I'M NOT GETTING ANYWHERE THIS WAY, I'LL GIVE IT A TRY!

BILLY, YOU'RE A GENIUS! THE COIN SNAPS OPEN AND THERE'S A MINATURE BUGGING DEVICE INSIDE IT!

BUT WHY WOULD ANYBODY WANT TO BUG ME? MY PARENTS AREN'T RICH-- THEY DON'T KEEP MUCH CASH OR VALUABLES IN THE HOUSE...

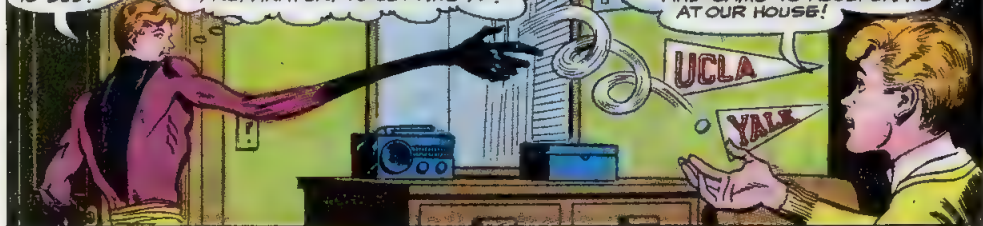
YET THERE MUST BE **SOMETHING** HERE THE "GURU" THINKS IS WORTH A LOT OF MONEY TO GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE--

WAIT-- I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING--B-BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU ABOUT IT! GRANDPA'S STAYING WITH US AND MADE ME SWEAR NOT TO BLAB TO ANYBODY!

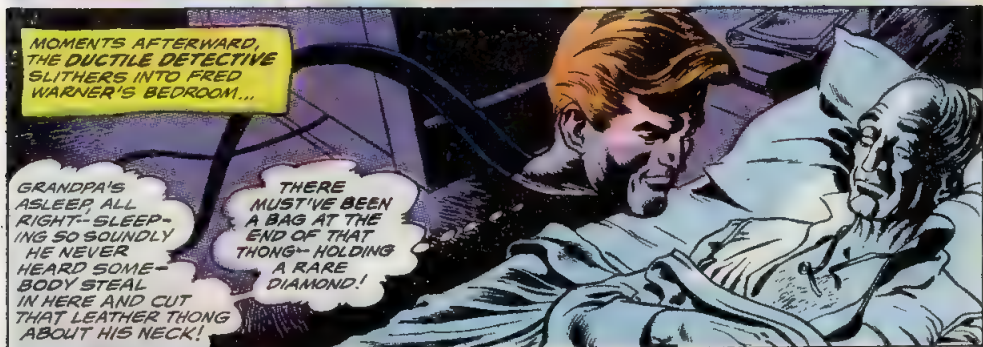
IT'S LATE,
BILLY! YOU'D
BETTER GET
TO BED!

GRANDPA FRED WARNER IS A FAMOUS
DIAMOND-CUTTER! CAN IT BE THAT
HE'S STUDYING A RAW DIAMOND HERE
PREPARATORY TO CUTTING IT?

NO POINT ASKIN' GRANDPA
ABOUT IT! HE SLEEPS A LOT
EVER SINCE HIS ACCIDENT
AND CAME TO RECUPERATE
AT OUR HOUSE!



MOMENTS AFTERWARD,
THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE
SLITHERS INTO FRED
WARNER'S BEDROOM...



GRANDPA'S
ASLEEP, ALL
RIGHT-- SLEEP-
ING SO SOUNDLY
HE NEVER
HEARD SOME-
BODY STEAL
IN HERE AND CUT
THAT LEATHER THONG
ABOUT HIS NECK!

THERE
MUST'VE BEEN
A BAG AT THE
END OF THAT
THONG-- HOLDING
A RARE
DIAMOND!



WONDER HOW
LONG AGO THAT
DIAMOND-THIEF
LEFT?

THOSE TWO
CARS PASSING
BY-- IN OPPOSITE
DIRECTIONS!
MAYBE THE
CROOK'S IN
ONE OF
THEM-- BUT
WHICH ONE?

TWO ELONGATED EARS ZIP OUT FROM EITHER SIDE OF HIS
HEAD AND...

OUR HONEYMOON
HOTEL IS JUST
DOWN THE ROAD,
DARLING...

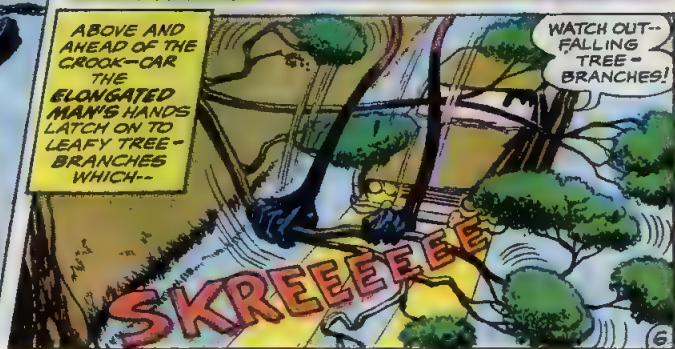
THAT MAGIC COIN GAG
SURE PAID OFF! IT'LL
MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR
THE DOUGH WE SHELLED OUT
TO BUY THEM THINGS FOR
THE KID!

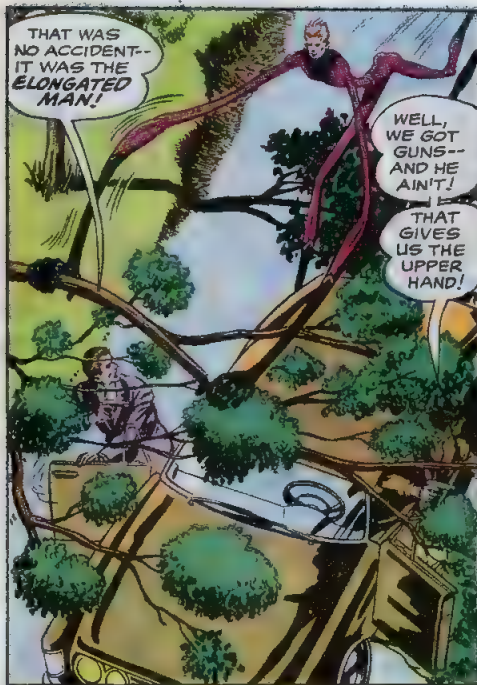
IT WORKED OUT JUST
AS WE FIGURED--
THAT OLD MAN
WARNER WOULD TELL
HIS GRANDSON ABOUT
THE STAR OF
CALCUTTA
DIAMOND!

I'VE
GOT ALL
THE EAR-
FUL I
NEED!

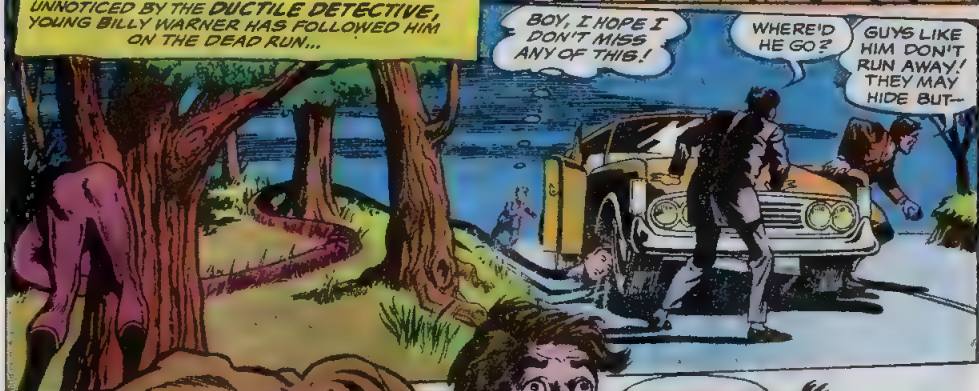
ABOVE AND
AHEAD OF THE
CROOK-CAR
THE
ELONGATED
MAN'S HANDS
LATCH ON TO
LEAFY TREE-
BRANCHES
WHICH--

WATCH OUT--
FALLING
TREE-
BRANCHES!

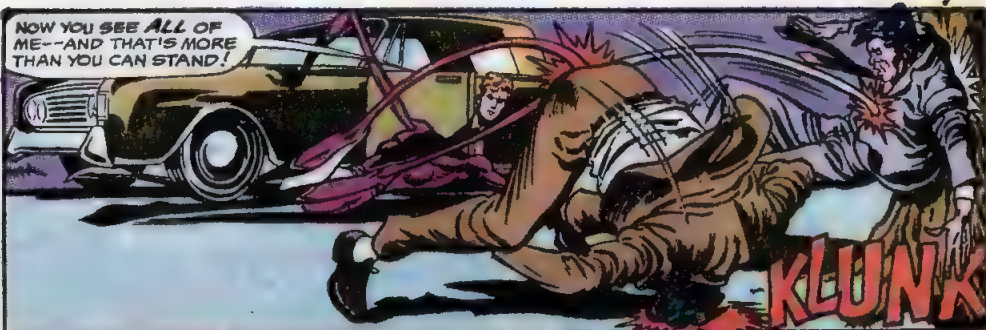




UNNOTICED BY THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE, YOUNG BILLY WARNER HAS FOLLOWED HIM ON THE DEAD RUN...



NOW YOU SEE ALL OF ME--AND THAT'S MORE THAN YOU CAN STAND!



BILLY! I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
IN BED!

I SAW WHAT
YOU WERE UP
TO-- FOLLOWED
YOU--

HERE'S WHERE I GET
EVEN WITH E.M. WITH A
SWINGIN' BRANCH OF
MY OWN!



UNCLE
RALPH--
ONE OF 'EM
IS GETTING
AWAY!



KRAAKK

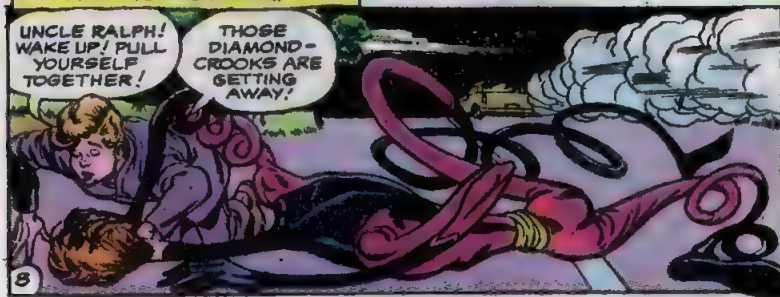
OHNN!



AND AS THE GETAWAY CAR ROARS
OFF INTO THE NIGHT...

UNCLE RALPH!
WAKE UP! PULL
YOURSELF
GETTING
TOGETHER!

THOSE DIAMOND-
CROOKS ARE
GETTING
AWAY!

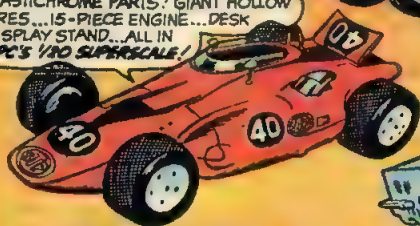


AT THIS CRITICAL
MOMENT WE TAKE
LEAVE OF AN UNCON-
SCIOUS ELONGATED
MAN AND DIS-
TRAUGHT BILLY
WARNER-- UNTIL THE
NEXT ISSUE-- WHEN
THE STRETCHABLE
SLEUTH IS CON-
FRONTED BY THE
PERPLEXING PROBLEM
OF HOW TO TRACK
DOWN THE CROOKS
WITHOUT A CLUE
TO WHO THEY ARE...
OR WHERE THEY
WENT!

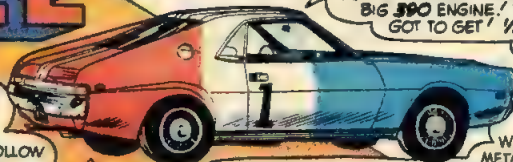
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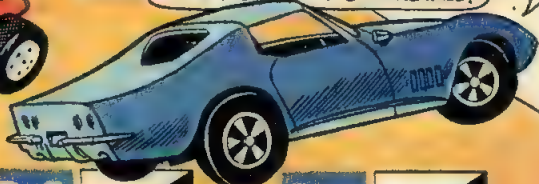


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BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

Dear Editor: Seems to me that "Batman! Drop Dead - Twice" in *Detective* 378 had - plotwise - a familiar ring to it, but then, what with nearly thirty years of the *Dynamic Duo's* adventures, it'd be well-nigh impossible not to repeat oneself, at least partially. The story, undeniably, had its good points, however. As a matter of fact, Frank Robbins may well be on the road to giving Batman the reinvigorating jolt that he's needed for a long time.

Unfortunately, one drop of realism, to coin a phrase, doth not an ocean make. The author injected character into his work, but how can you buck three decades of stereotyping? The very premise on which the tale was based - that Robin would get tired of playing second fiddle to Batman (or something) - goes against ages of casting the Teen Titan as loyal, obedient, humble, and cheerful. The development would be natural in any real partnership, but not in Batman and Robin's, as presented to fandom thus far. Just as Dick Grayson has never grown up, his personality has never changed, and Mr. Robbins' innovation (?) is too radical. I like it - but it doesn't wash.

Back to that issue: Salvo and Chino are two excellent characters. They're the first really wicked villains DC has ever produced; one doesn't have to wear a ferocious costume or have green hair to be evil. I almost went into wild rejoicing at the contrast between Robin's and Chino's personalities; Dick's painful naivete was so realistic. But again, it is a case with no precedent - Robin has never had a naive moment in his life before - and as such has no place in the timeless world of Batman and Robin.

Still another good point in the issue was the depiction of Salvo's "family", so like - and unlike - Bruce Wayne's household! This parallel between Salvo and Bruce, Chino and Dick, even Chopper and Alfred (!), was a macabre twist that some fans will undoubtedly find trite. I found it fascinating. Somehow - somewhere - Batman has to have an adversary who is to law and order what he is to crime. Frank Robbins came close to hitting on this "player on the other side" in this story!

I could go on and on with this, but I'll cut it short with a final comment. If Frank Robbins - or any DC writer - is to make radical changes in an established set of characters like the *Dynamic Duo*, he's got to go all the way. Don't do things by halves! If Batman is to be realistic, let him be so, by all means. But the realism should include not only his character but everything - "powers", romantic entanglements, equipment, and (to some degree) adversaries. - Rand B. Lee, Roxbury, Conn.

(Give Frank Robbins enough Bat-time and perhaps he'll give Batman the direction you ask for. On the other hand, if you insist Robbins failed to go far enough, dig a fellow-critic who insists he went too far! - Editor)

Dear Editor: The best way I can think of to describe "Batman! Drop Dead - Twice" is to quote one of my previous letters. . . . Blaazaa! If Frank Robbins wants to write, it's fine with me; just don't let him write for comic magazines! I don't think I have ever seen such a mess of mischaracterization and bad plotting in any Schwartz-edited publication, unless it was something else that Robbins wrote.

"Oh, dandy!" said Dick Grayson. Are you kidding? Neither Dick Grayson nor Robin has ever said anything even faintly resembling that phrase. To paraphrase myself, Blaazaa! Is this the Robin who has so often successfully disguised himself and his jargon along with the criminals of Gotham City? The Dick Grayson who was sent by his guardian to a public school to be sure he was like the other normal boys? "Oh, dandy!"?

And that ridiculous fight on pages 4-6! Are you trying to tell me that Dick/Robin, who has at times handled up to four or five adult fighting criminals couldn't keep a gun out of the hands of a ridiculous little juvenile delinquent? I find that rather hard to believe, or, in other words, Blaazaa!

And speaking of Batman, when did he pick up the habit of using "throbbing" palpitation" as an expletive? Perhaps author Robbins wanted to express himself through his story, but the only time I could feel he was really getting his point across was, to use a Vartanoff trick, in the last line of the third panel on page nine.

When last year, in issue 366, you gave us the first two-part story Batman had participated in in a Schwartz *Detective*, I joined a lot of other fans in telling you what a well-done story it was, and what a good idea it was to have two-part stories, and why had you not had two-part stories before? I found out in this issue - this story lacked everything "The Round-Robin Death Threats" had. No suspense, no mystery, not even a decent cliff-hanger. If you are planning to make the two-part story an annual event in *Detective* (which would be a great idea), I certainly hope that they will be of better quality than this one. - Steven Carlberg, Shreveport, La.

Dear Editor: I'm just bursting with praises for you, but I don't know where to begin. Well, first I'd better tell you what I'm talking about. It's *Detective Comics* 378. I think I should open with Frank Robbins' great script. I didn't think anything could ever equal Frank's recent "Operation: Blindfold", which, by the way, still remains undended. But this one - I was flipping page after page, not being able to turn fast enough, itching to see what came next. And all of a sudden it ended on me, right in the middle of the story. That's dirty pool, Frank, but it worked. If I don't get that next part, I'll go crazy, if I'm not there already.

I have only two things to say in regard to the *Elongated Man* story - 1. The story was excellent; however, it always is. 2. You are very wise in putting Sid Greene in charge of the art again, as he is superior to all others. His unique "softening" effect turns Ralph into waves of flowing rubber right before your eyes! - Gary Skinner, Columbus, Ohio

(And now surprise of surprises - a two-part Elongated Man story! Crazy, eh? - Editor)

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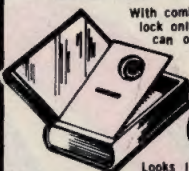
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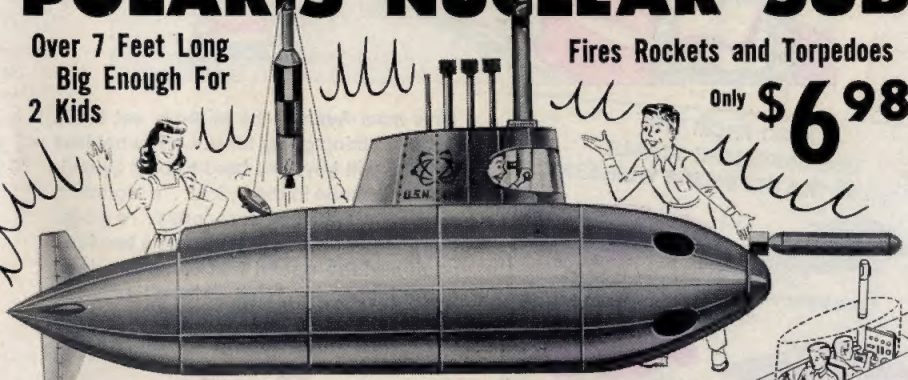
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